

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Specification Objections

The specification has been amended as shown herein to moot the Office Action's objections to the specification.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-7, 9, 11-16, 19, 20, 23, 26, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,418,585 to Viner (hereinafter, "Viner '585"). Claims 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Viner '585 in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,916,754 to Zottola (hereinafter, "Zottola '754"). Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Viner '585 in view of French Publication No. 2 709 056 (hereinafter, "France '056"). Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Viner '585 in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,484,888 to Davis (hereinafter, "Davis '888"). Claims 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Viner '585. Claims 1-13, 19, 20, 23, 26, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,730,744 to Vaughn (hereinafter, "Vaughn '744"). Claim 1 is amended without prejudice.

Independent claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Viner '585 because Viner '585 does not disclose all of the elements of claim 1. Amended claim 1 requires "wherein movement of the pusher toward the distal end of the handle causes the pusher to engage the mop element support such that the mop element support and the mop element fold along the first hinge line, and movement of the pusher toward the proximal end of the handle causes the pusher to engage the mop element support such that the mop element support and the mop element are unfolded along the first hinge line". In contrast, the cleansing element 24 of Viner '585 moves to an unfolded position through the use of springs 54a and 54b, which pull the bent sections 26a and 26b of the plate 26 (See, e.g., Viner '585, Fig. 3 and col. 5, lines 5-8). Therefore, Applicants' claim 1 is patentable over Viner '585 for at least this reason, and Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Regarding the rejection of amended claim 1 based on Vaughn '744, Applicants respectfully submit that Vaughn '744 also does not anticipate claim 1 because Vaughn '744 does not disclose all of the elements of claim 1. For example, claim 1 requires "a mop element support having a length and a width, the length being longer than the width, a transverse axis is disposed along the length ... the mop element support has a first hinge line, the mop element support is able to fold along the first hinge line, the first hinge line is along the transverse axis, the transverse axis is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis." Vaughn '744 folds at an axis that is disposed along the width of the pressure plate 28 (*See, e.g.*, Vaughn '744, Fig. 10). Therefore, Applicants' amended claim 1 is patentable over Vaughn '744 for at least this reason, and Applicants also respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

With respect to claims 2-27, all of which depend directly or indirectly upon claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that such dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Moreover, each such claim recites additional features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2-27 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Augustyn, Reg. No. 33,589
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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